The Diſtreſſed Child in the WOOD: Or, the CRUEL UNKLE;

BEING A

ue and diſmal Relation of one Eſq; *Solmes* of *Beverly*, in *Yorkſhire*; who dying left an only Infant Daughter, of the Age of two Years, o the care of his own Brother; who with many Oaths, Vows, and Proteſtations promiſed to be Loving to her; but the Father was no ſoon- r Dead, but out of a wicked Covetouſneſs of the Child's Eſtate of three undred Pounds a Year, carry'd it into a Wood, and there put it into a Hallow Tree to Starve it to Death: Where a Gentleman and his Man eing a Hunting two Days after, found it half Famiſh'd, having gnaw- d its own Fleſh and Fingers end in a dreadful manner.

h an Account how the Cruel Unkle to hidt his Villany, had cauſed the Childs Effigies to be buried in Wax. and made a great Funeral, as if it d been really Dead: With the manner of the whole diſcov ry, by a Dream, and taking the Wax Child out of the Grave; with the Unkles pprehenſion, Examination, Confeſſion before Juſtice *Stubbs*, and his ommitment to Goal, in order to be Try'd the next Aſſizes, for that rbarous Action. To which is added a Copy of Verſes on the ſaid elation.

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The Inhuman Brother, &c.

BRITISH MUSEUM

IN the Town of *Beverly* in *Yorkſhire*, about Two Years ago there lived one Squire *Somes*, a very honeſt Gentleman of about three hundred *per Ann.* his Wife dying, by whom he had one little Daughter about Two years of age, he continued ſome months a ſorrowful Widower, he cou'd not well enjoy himſelf after the loſs of his dear ſpouſe: And it ſo happened, that partly out of grief, partly from a violent Fever, he was brought to his Bed of Sickneſs, where he continued not long, for he died within a Fortnight after he was taken by that Fever. He expreſs'd a great concern for his little Girl; and therefore call'd his Brother a Gentleman that liv'd about 14 miles from him, and beg'd him to take the care of his Daughter upon him. Brother, ſaid he, I leave with you the deareſt thing that I have in the World, my

little Daughter, and with her to you I intruſt my Eſtate; manage it for her uſe, and take care of her Education in Vertue and Religion; uſe her as if ſhe your own, and for my Sake ſee her married to an honeſt Country Gentleman. All which was faithfully promis'd by the Brother: Thus when all things were ſettled, the Gentleman dies, and the Brother takes Home the Child to his Houſe, and for ſome time us'd her kindly. But at the laſt the *D---l* of *Covetouſneſs* poſſeſs'd him; nothing run in his mind ſo much as making away with the Child, and ſo poſſeſs the Eſtate. After many ways, he at laſt concluded to take her with him, and hide her in a hollow Tree: which one Morning he effected, and left the poor Infant with her Mouth ſtop'd that ſhe might not cry. For he had ſo much Grace, not actually to Murder her, therefore he left her alive in the hollow of the Tree; and the better to hide the Matter, gave out that the Child was Dead; and therfore caus'd an

Effigie of Wax to be made, laid it in a Coffin, and a Shrow'd, and made a great Funeral for the Child. Thus the Effigie was Buried, and no Notice at all taken of the Matter. At the ſame time, a Neighbouring Gentleman dream'd, That that Day he ſhou'd ſee ſomething that wou'd ſufficiently aſtoniſh him: He told it to his Lady, who diſwaded him from going a Hunting that Day; but he was reſolved, not giving any credit to Dreams, and ſo takes Horſe in the Morning: as he was a Hunting, he happen'd to be in the Wood where the Child was. And as he was Riding by the Tree his Horſe gave a great ſtart, ſo that he had lik'd to have fallen down; and turning about to ſee what was the matter he ſaw ſome thing ſtir in a Hole; and being inquiſitive to know the Cauſe, his Dream preſently came in his Head. And therefore he calls his Man, and bids him examine what was in the Hole: who having ſearch'd the Tree, diſcovers the Child in the Tree. He took it out

and his Maſter carried it to his Lady almoſt dead; he told her his Dream was out, declaring how he found the Child, and beg'd her to take Care of it. The Child was reviv'd, and in a little time brought to its ſelf again; but they cou'd not imagine whoſe it was; till at laſt it happen'd that ſome Women came to the Gentleman's Houſe a Singing at *Criſtmaſs*; and ſeeing the Child, knew it, and declar'd whoſe it was, and that it was ſuppos'd to be dead and buried. The Gentleman goes and prevails with the Miniſter of the Pariſh to have the Grave open'd, and found the Waxen-Effigie of the Child in the Grave. He went to the Juſtice of the peace, to whom he declared the matter; who ſent his Warrant for the Child's Truſtee: who being convicted of the matter; was not able to deny it, but confeſs'd all the *Buſineſs*. But ſeeing the Child was alive, 'tis ſuppos'd he will not be tried for his Life; but 'tit thought a ſevere Puniſhment will be inflicted on him; and the Juſtice appointed the Gentle-

man that found the Child, to be its Truſtee, till the Aſſizes. The Child is now at the Gentlemans Houſe, who loves it as if it was his own; for he has no Children himſelf, and is a Man of a good Eſtate, and is likely to augment very much the Child's Fortune.

A Copy of Verſes on the afore ſaid Relation, to the Tune of, For give me if your looks I thought.

1. A Wealthy Squire in the North,
Who left an Infant Daughter
All his eſtate, of mighty Worth;
But mark what fallow'd after:
As he lay on his Dying Bed,
He call'd his Brother to him,
And unto him theſe Words he ſaid;
I from the World am going.

2. Therefore, Dear Brother, take my Child,
which is both Young and Tender,
And for my Sake be Kind and Mild,
And faithfully defend Her:
Three Hundred Pound a Year I leave,
To bring her up in Faſhion,
I hope you will not her deceive,
But uſe her with Compaſſion.

3. To which the Brother then reply'd,
I'll ſooner ſuffer Torture,
Than e'er become a wicked Guide,
or wrong your Only Daughter,
The Father then did ſeem content,
And like a Lamb expir'd,

As thinking nothing could prevent
What he had thus desir'd.
4. The Father being dead and gone,
The Uucle then contrived
To make the Child's Estate his own,
And of its Life deprive it:
A wicked Thought came in his Head;
And thus concludes to serve it:
He takes it up out of the Bed,
And then resolves to Starve it.
5. With wicked Mind into a Wood
He then the Infant carries;
And tho' he would not shed Her Blood,
Yet there alive he Buries
Within a Hollow Oaken Tree,
He stop'd the Mouth from Crying,
That none might hear, and come to see
How the poor Child was Dying.
6. Then gave he out the Child was Dead,
And did pretend some Sorrow;
And caus'd the Shape in Wax be made,
To bury on the Morrow:
Some Mourning too he bought beside,
All to avoid Suspicion:
But yet alas! this would not hide
The Guilt of his Commission.
For happy Fate, and Providence
Did keep the Child from Dying,
Whose chiefest Guard was Innocense,
On which is best Relying:
When the Breath was almost spent;
A Gentleman did spy her,
He and's Man a Hunting went,

And ſo approached nigh Her.
8, He took the wronged Infant Home,
And to his Lady gave it;
(Quoth he) *This Child from fatal Doom*
I happily did ſave it,
Therefore I'll keep it as my own,
Since I have none beſide it:
Tho' ſuch a thing is ſeldom known,
I will ſupport and guide it.
9. But as the Lady and her Spouſe,
Did to the Neighbours ſhew it,
A Woman came into the Houſe
That preſently did know it;
And ſoon diſcover'd all the Cheat
The Unkle had intended,
To get the poor young Child's Eſtate,
Who promis'd to defend it.
10. The wicked Unkle being ſeiz'd
And charg'd with his Tranſgreſſion,
His Mind and Conſcience was ſo teaz'd,
he made a full Confeſſion:
The Juſtice ſent him to the Jail,
Where he is cloſely Guarded;
And next Aſſizes will not fail
Of being well Rewarded.

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Note, This Relation will be atteſted at t'e *Three-Nuns*, and *Rummer-Tavern* without *Aldgate*.

Licenſed according to Order.